

A DRAMATIC BATTLE.

The Biddle Brothers, Condemned Murderers, Escape.

Captured After Being Badly Wounded By Officers—They Died Later—Warden's Wife, Who Assisted Their Escape, Wounded.

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 31.—Edward and John Biddle, awaiting execution in the county jail for the murder of Grocer Thomas D. Kahney, of Mt. Washington, overpowered the guards at 4 o'clock Thursday morning and escaped. Both prisoners had been provided with saws with which they cut the bars in their cells and were ready at any moment to make an opening sufficiently large to pass through. The prisoners occupied adjoining cells on the second range. They had evidently been preparing for escape for some time, and had assistance from the outside, as both were armed with revolvers.

The escape of the Biddles has been explained. Warden Peter K. Soffel has authorized its publication. It is the allegation that his wife is responsible for the furnishing of revolvers and saws to the Biddles, which enabled them to escape. In her infatuation for the handsome desperado, Edward Biddle, it is alleged that she has left her husband and her four children and it is supposed to be to meet the escaped convicts at a place agreed upon.

The prison board began an investigation Thursday afternoon and announced upon adjournment Thursday night that Warden Soffel, at his own request, had been relieved from duty pending the result of the investigation. Deputy Warden Marshall was placed in charge temporarily.

Butler, Pa., Feb. 1.—Edward Biddle in jail dying, John Biddle riddled with buckshot and in a precarious condition, and Mrs. Peter K. Soffel lying in the hospital with a self-inflicted bullet wound in the breast, is the sequel of the sensational escape of the Biddle brothers from the Allegheny county jail, aided by Mrs. Soffel, the wife of the jail warden, on Thursday morning. The story of the close of the Biddle tragedy is a thrilling one.

The scene was a snow covered road two miles east of Prospect, Butler county, near Mt. Chestnut, and the exact place was at McClure's barn, where two double team sleighs, filled with eight officers, three of them Pittsburg detectives, John Roach, Albert Swinehart and Charles McGovern, met the two Biddles in a one-horse sleigh, stolen at Perryville, and at once opened fire on the trio.

The Biddles returned the fire after jumping out of the sleigh. Mrs. Soffel was shot through the breast.

The Pittsburg officers were met at Butler Friday afternoon by Deputy Sheriffs Rainey and Hoon and Officers Frank Holliday and Aaron Thompson the latter under command of Chief of Police Robert Ray, of Butler.

The Biddles and Mrs. Soffel ate dinner at J. J. Stephen's, at Mt. Chestnut. They had made a detour of the town of Butler and after going several miles east turned north and then west. The Pittsburg officers reached Mt. Chestnut not less than half an hour after the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel. At this point William Watson, storekeeper, had fresh horses awaiting them, and the chase for life began anew.

The two sleighs with the eight officers aboard started westward, and met the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel at McClure's barn, two miles from Mt. Prospect, the Biddles having learned that they were almost overtaken, and taking what they considered the only chance they had, drove eastward and met their doom.

When the detectives got within about 60 yards of the fugitives they opened fire. The Biddles promptly answered with shotguns and revolvers. When Ed Biddle fell and Mrs. Soffel saw she was about to be captured she fired a bullet into her breast. An examination by physicians shows that she will recover, as the bullet was deflected by her corset and the wound is comparatively slight.

Ed Biddle got a bullet in the breast which penetrated his right lung and will probably end his life soon. John Biddle may recover, his wounds, though numerous, failing to reach a vital spot. The escape of the officers is miraculous. The Biddles have demonstrated on several occasions that they are good marksmen, and why they should have failed on this occasion to bring down their men is a mystery.

After the Biddles fell to the snow covered ground the officers picked up the apparently lifeless bodies of Mrs. Soffel and the Biddles and came back to Butler, bringing the stolen sleigh, patched up harness and worn out horse that the trio had tried so strenuously to get away with toward Canada and liberty.

Mrs. Soffel made a statement after her capture in which she said she became involved in the affair through her sympathy for Ed Biddle. She said she now realized her mistake and wished she was dead. She said she did not shoot herself.

Butler, Pa., Feb. 1.—John and Edward Biddle, the wounded convicts, died Saturday evening.

Butler, Pa., Feb. 3.—The terrible fate of the Biddles is the sole topic of conversation here. A great deal of sympathy for the boys is expressed on all sides, and not a few of the female portion of the crowd expressed a desire to see what kind of a man Biddle was, that he should exert such a wonderful influence over men and particularly women. The jail doors were closed all day, and no one got in but the doctors, who attended the autopsy, and the coroner's jury, which

organized at 9 o'clock Sunday morning. Coroner John L. Jones arrived at 9 o'clock at the jail and selected the jury. The testimony of all the officers concerned in the capture was taken except Robert Ray.

At the inquest Sheriff Hoon testified that between 40 and 50 shots were fired at the Biddles. Both men fell out of the sleigh, and were lying on their faces when the officers came up to them. Detective McGovern, Hoon says, "walked up and hit Jack on the back of the head with the butt end of his Winchester when he was on his face. Then I turned Ed over on his back. I was the first to touch either of the men, and he was going to shoot them again. He stepped back and shot Jack again after he was on the ground. I turned Ed over, and he said: 'For God's sake, don't shoot again—let me die.' Mr. Holliday turned Jack over and coaxed him (McGovern) not to abuse him—to let him die. The slugs that entered the arms and side of Jack Biddle were from the shot fired by McGovern after he was lying face downward on the snow at close range."

The verdict of the jury is that Ed Biddle came to his death by a revolver shot fired from a 32-caliber revolver by himself, and that Jack Biddle met his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by the officers in discharging their lawful duty.

Under instructions of Coroner Jones, an autopsy was held on the Biddles Sunday morning. The evidence secured by the autopsy bears out the statements that the Biddles intended to kill themselves rather than be taken alive, and that Ed succeeded in his attempt while Jack failed, though his life was forfeited.

Dr. Bricker gave the following statement after the autopsy:

"Jack Biddle was the worst wounded of the two men, although he was in better condition than Ed, when the men were brought to the jail Friday night. He had two gunshot wounds on the right side in the region of the liver, the bullets passing up and around the body and did no damage. They were removed on Saturday. A bullet wound was found in the roof of the mouth, but it was slight and would not have caused his death. This wound was inflicted by himself with the evident intention of committing suicide."

"In all, Jack was suffering from nine wounds, but excepting the one that penetrated the kidney none of them would have been fatal. Ed's terrible sufferings were caused by a bullet wound that struck him on the left breast about an inch and a half to the right of the nipple and passed down between the fourth and fifth ribs to the left of the heart and through the lung. This wound was made by Ed himself. The powder marks are visible on the skin. Death was caused by hemorrhages and the man suffered untold agony to the last breath. Another wound found on his body was on the same side, about an inch from the left nipple, but the bullet struck the fourth rib, passed under the skin and did no damage. Both bullets found in Ed were 32 caliber, and in the opinion of the doctors, who held the autopsy, there is no doubt that he killed himself."

After the autopsy the bodies of the Biddles were taken in charge by Undertaker W. P. Roessing, of Butler, who prepared them for burial.

Arrangements were made to take the bodies to Pittsburg Monday morning. They are in charge of Sheriff T. R. Hoon.

Since the officers concerned in the fight and capture of the Biddles have had time to cool off a little, there appears to be a disposition to be fair towards each other in the matter of the distribution of the prize money, and an agreement to divide the \$5,000 reward equally among the four officers here, the driver, J. A. Snyder, and the three Pittsburg detectives, has been practically consented to by all of the men except Detective McGovern, who is not here.

Mrs. Soffel was reported to be splitting blood Sunday night at the hospital and her condition is not considered so favorable. The track of the bullet wound in her breast runs close to the pleura and the doctors are not yet able to tell whether the hemorrhage is caused by the wound or is attributable to some other cause not yet fully developed.

MURDERERS CAPTURED.

The Slayers of James Heekin Brought to Bay Near Crenshaw, Pa.

Brockwayville, Pa., Feb. 3.—Half-naked and nearly starved, Thos. Madalena and Bennie Poli, the Italians, wanted for the murder of James Heekin in at Shawmut Saturday, January 28, were brought to bay in a lonely woods near Crenshaw, two miles from this place, and captured. The two Italians have been pursued and searched for since the night of their crime, and the commissioners of Elk county and the Shawmut Mining Co. have offered a reward of \$1,000 for their capture. The pursuing party was composed of four Italians, under the direction of Squire Thomas Keys, of this place. The murderers had been hiding in the woods since Heekin was murdered. They declared that they had had nothing to eat for four days and were nearly famished. When the Italian deputies, under Squire Keys, appeared, they were too weak to offer any material resistance and were easily overpowered by the posse.

Worst Blizzard of the Winter.

Cory, Pa., Feb. 3.—The worst blizzard of the winter is raging in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Since early Sunday snow has fallen, and a fierce wind from the west drives it into huge drifts. Railway traffic is much impeded and telegraph and telephone companies are having much trouble.

A BIG CONFLAGRATION.

A Two Million Dollar Fire at Waterbury, Ct.

The Flames Were Gotten Under Control About Midnight, But Broke Out in New Places—Assistance Called For.

Waterbury, Ct., Feb. 3.—The most disastrous fire in the history of Waterbury broke out in the heart of the city shortly before 6:30 Saturday evening. A large section of the business part of the city has already been wiped out and in the high wind prevailing there is little hope of saving what still stands in that part of the business section south of Exchange place. The fire originated in the upholstery department on the third floor of the store of the Reid & Hughes Dry Goods Co., at 108-112 Bank street. That store and many adjoining buildings are in ruins. The origin of the conflagration is not known. The fire was not discovered until it had gained tremendous headway.

The wind, which was at first shifting, settled toward the east and carried destruction with it. The first building to catch from the Reid & Hughes Co. store was a tall structure occupied by the Salvation army barracks and a Turkish bath. A moment or two later the flames leaped across Bank street and wiped out the Ryan & Fitzmaurice block, Cannon & Webster's drug store, Davis' cigar store and the store of J. B. Mullings & Sons. The fire burned rapidly through to South Main street and jumped across that street, shivering the buildings like paper. At the same time the flames caught the Masonic temple and traveled from the Salvation army building to the rear of the Franklin house on Grand street and the entire block, consisting of seven or eight handsome five story buildings, with 30 tenants, and the large quarters of the Waterbury American were in ruins before midnight.

Shortly after midnight the fire which had apparently been brought nearly under control, broke out in new places, and the efforts of the local firemen, combined with the aid given by fire fighters and apparatus from Hartford, Torrington, Bridgeport, New Haven and Naugatuck, seemed powerless to stay its progress. The blaze was wiping out the business portion of the city, all the fire being confined to that section, though residential parts of the city were in danger by sparks driven by the furious wind.

At 1 o'clock conservative estimates place the loss at \$2,000,000.

At 4:20 a. m. flames 30 feet high were leaping from the roof of the Scoville house, which caught fire after the flames had been thought under control. The guests in the Scoville house and the Exchange hotel have fled in their night clothes. The second fire has placed the city in a panic. The origin of the last blaze is a mystery. The city hall is threatened. The Exchange hotel is burning like tinder.

TRAINS ABANDONED.

Heavy Snow Storm Accompanied With High Westerly Winds.

Bradford, Pa., Feb. 3.—Snow has fallen steadily since 7 o'clock Sunday morning, accompanied by high westerly winds. All trains on the Western New York & Pennsylvania branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, the Bradford, Bordell & Kinzua, the Bradford branch of the Erie, Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh, have been abandoned. The fast passenger train between Rochester, Buffalo and Pittsburgh has been abandoned. Trains are running several hours late on the main line of the Erie.

CHINESE BOXERS.

Reported They Invaded Corea and Plundered Several Towns.

London, Feb. 3.—A report has reached here from Western Corea, wires the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Mail, "that 2,000 Chinese Boxers have crossed the Korean frontier and plundered several towns, the inhabitants of which fled. The government has asked for military assistance."

Smooth Nickels Go.

St. Louis, Feb. 3.—"Smooth" nickels must be accepted at their face value, according to a decision rendered by Judge Ryan in the circuit court in the case of John F. Ruth, who was awarded \$2,000 against the St. Louis Transit Co. for being ejected from a car, arrested and locked up over night because he tendered a worn coin.

Pier Demolished.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 3.—A blizzard which promises to be the severest in years prevails throughout the provinces, having been preceded by wind of almost hurricane force. The new big steel ferry steamer Scotia broke from her moorings and, crashing into a pier, demolished it.

Sailed For the West Indies.

New York, Feb. 3.—The United States gunboat Machias, Lieut. Commander Henry McCrea, which has been at the navy yard here for the past month receiving repairs, sailed Sunday afternoon with orders to proceed to the West Indies.

Stolen Jewels Recovered.

Glendive, Mont., Feb. 3.—The diamonds stolen from the two iron-bound trunks belonging to C. B. Clousen, traveling representative of a Minneapolis wholesale jewelry firm, were recovered at Terry, 40 miles west of Glendive.

LEFT FOR NASHVILLE.

Rr. Adm. Schley's Visit in Louisville Came to An End.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 1.—The visit of Adm. and Mrs. Schley in this city came to an end at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon when they left in the private car of President Milton H. Smith, of the Louisville & Nashville railroad for Nashville. The car was attached to the "Florida Limited" and Theodore Cooley, a member of the Nashville reception committee, accompanied the departing guests. In spite of the fact that every effort had been exerted to make the admiral's departure as quiet as possible, a crowd of people were at the station to cheer him as he boarded the train.

As the cars pulled out of the depot the crowd gave three cheers and the admiral stood on the rear platform and waved his handkerchief. Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 1.—Adm. and Mrs. Schley are the guests of Nashville, and the city is in holiday attire in their honor. The train bearing them from Louisville was met at Bowling Green, Ky., by a committee of Nashville's citizens. Both the admiral and his wife appeared in the best of health and spirits, and expressed themselves as highly delighted with their stay in Louisville.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 3.—Adm. and Mrs. Schley braved the cold Sunday for a visit to the tomb of Andrew Jackson. The trip to the hermitage, 12 miles out, was made in a special train leaving here at 10:30 Sunday morning. Arriving there the party was taken in charge by a committee from the Ladies' Hermitage association and escorted to the old brick church, where Jackson worshipped. These services were conducted by Rev. D. C. Kelley, a Methodist minister, who with the rank of colonel commanded a brigade of confederates under Gen. Nathan B. Forrest. After the services, which were largely attended by people of the "Hermitage district," the distinguished visitors were forced to hold something of a levee, the congregation filing by and shaking hands.

Monday morning Adm. and Mrs. Schley visited the Peabody normal college. In the afternoon a public reception at the Tabernacle was held and in the evening Maj. and Mrs. F. B. Stahlman entertained the visitors at the University church.

Tuesday at 9:30 a. m. Adm. and Mrs. Schley will leave over the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railroad for Chattanooga.

THE JURY'S VERDICT.

Jim Howard Convicted and Received a Life Sentence.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 31.—Thursday morning the jury in the case of Jas. Howard, accused of complicity in the murder of Gov. Goebel, returned a verdict finding the prisoner guilty and fixing his punishment at life imprisonment.

This was Howard's second trial. On the first trial he was found guilty and sentenced to hang, but the court of appeals set aside the verdict and granted a rehearing of the case.

The jury is said to have voted unanimously in favor of the verdict of guilty. On the question of punishment seven voted on the first ballot for life imprisonment and five for hanging. On subsequent ballots the five for the death penalty voted with those favoring the life sentence. Howard looked pleased when the verdict was announced. His attorneys will enter a motion for a new trial.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 3.—Judge Cantrell overruled the motion for a new trial in the case of Jim Howard, and sentence was passed on Howard, consigning him to imprisonment in the penitentiary for the term of his natural life. The attorneys for the defense prayed for an appeal to the court of appeals, which was granted as a matter of right, and sentence was passed upon Howard, who Monday was transferred to the Georgetown jail.

Howard stood up in response to the order of the court, and when asked if he had cause to show why sentence should not be passed upon him, he replied: "None except that I am absolutely innocent."

Naval Academy Board of Visitors.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The president has appointed the following board of visitors at the naval academy: William Butler Duncan, New York; Francis Rawle, Philadelphia; Jas. R. May, Portsmouth, N. H.; L. W. McGruder, Vicksburg, Miss.; Eugene L. Zimmerman, Cincinnati, O.; George T. Winston, Raleigh, N. C.; Francis B. Galt, Tacoma, Wash.

Refused to Sign.

Jersey Shore, Pa., Feb. 1.—A strike was narrowly averted in the local telephone exchange. The superintendent requested them to sign an agreement not to marry for a term of five years. They refused to sign.

Bishop Hartzell Sailed.

Cape Town, Feb. 1.—Joseph C. Hartzell, of Cincinnati, missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church in Africa, has sailed from here for Madeira on his way to Liberia.

Week's Business Failures.

New York, Feb. 1.—Business failures in the United States for the week number 303, as against 292 last week, 238 in this week last year, 171 in 1900, 207 in 1899. Failures in Canada number 48, against 34 last week, 27 in this week a year ago and 31 in 1900.

Paintings Sold.

New York, Feb. 1.—Paintings which formed the collection of the late P. C. Hanford, of Chicago, were sold in this city under the auspices of the American Art association. The total for the sale was \$124,135.

Mixed History.

The juvenile son of an army officer made a strange mixture of the history of George Washington the other day. A visitor called during the absence of his parents, and to entertain the children and instill a lesson of manly honor and patriotism told them the famous stories of the liberty bell and the cherry tree. The scion of the soldier was much interested, but the details got badly twisted in his head. When his father returned home he was told of the fine story the visitor had told about the Father of his Country. "Washington must have been a wonderful man," said the boy. "He smashes the liberty bell with his little hatchet and his father whipped him with a cherry tree for telling a lie." It took paternalism some time to straighten things out.—Washington Star.

Grand Trunk Secures Space at Sportsmen's Show.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company has completed arrangements for an extensive exhibition in connection with the second annual Sportsmen's Show to be held in Chicago from February 3 until February 22. The Show is being held in the Coliseum, a large building admirably suited for the purpose. The exposition will probably be the finest that has ever taken place in America, excelling even that held in Philadelphia during last December. The Grand Trunk exhibit will include the collection of large photographs of scenes throughout the summer resort districts situated on its line, including the Muskoka Lakes, Lake of Bays, Magnetawan River, 30,000 Islands of the Georgian Bay, Kawartha Lakes and Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching, as well as views on the Portland division, combining land and water scenes, scenes in the White Mountain and surf bathing scenes taken on the Maine coast.

The space to be occupied by the Grand Trunk will be about 4,000 square feet, and will be one of the most attractive and most interesting exhibits at the show. The Grand Trunk has expended thousands of dollars in bringing before the people of the United States and foreign countries the beauties of the Canadian districts. In the districts embraced in what is known as "the Highlands of Ontario," nearly 30,000 tourists were carried during the summer months, the majority of whom were from the United States. These districts have become so popular that each year finds the hotel accommodation increasing and modern and up-to-date structures are being erected to accommodate the ever increasing travel that is being brought into Canada.

Realistic.

Grimes—What do you think of Landman's marine novel?

Hurley—It is the most perfect thing I ever got hold of. It actually is charged with the sea. I was sick before I had read three pages of it.—Boston Transcript.

Stops the Cough and Works Off the Cold.
Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Price 25c.

Constant.

Alice—Oh, no! Cholly isn't engaged! He is true to his first love.

May—Who is that?

"Cholly!"—Puck.

I do not believe Piso's Cure for Consumption has an equal for coughs and colds.—John F. Boyer, Trinity Springs, Ind., Feb. 15, 1900.

"Yes, they call it a 'rural play,' but it seems to me there's something lacking." "Why, so there is. There's no mortgage on the farm."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Dropsy treated free by Dr. H. H. Green's Sons, of Atlanta, Ga. The greatest dropsy specialists in the world. Read their advertisement in another column of this paper.

No sooner has a coquette given the combination that unlocks her heart than she sets about changing it.—Town Topics.

PUTNAM FADELESS DYES do not stain the hands or spot the kettle (except green and purple).

It is needless to say that things needless to say constitute a large proportion of the things that are said.—Puck.

Don't Neglect a Cough. Take Some Hale's Honey of Horehound and Salt. Instantly. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

When a man is paid for playing he calls it work.—Chicago Daily News.



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IF YOU HAVE
Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, or Neuralgia, Bronchitis,
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The result will be immediate relief from pain. It acts like magic; it penetrates quickly and removes the cause of pain; it

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DROPSY NEW DISCOVERY

gives quick relief and cures even the most obstinate cases. Book of testimonials and 10 days' treatment free. Dr. H. H. Green's Sons, 101 N. ATLANTA, GA.

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MISS BONNIE DELANO

A Chicago Society Lady, in a Letter to Mrs. Pinkham says:

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Of all the grateful daughters to whom you have given health and life, none are more glad than I.

"My home and my life was happy



MISS BONNIE DELANO.

until illness came upon me three years ago. I first noticed it by being irregular and having very painful and scanty menstruation; gradually my general health failed; I could not enjoy my meals; I became languid and nervous, with gripping pains frequently in the groins.

I advised with our family physician who prescribed without any improvement. One day he said:—"Try Lydia Pinkham's Remedies." I did, thank God; the next month I was better, and it gradually built me up until in four months I was cured. This is nearly a year ago and I have not had a pain or ache since."—BONNIE DELANO, 3248 Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.—\$5000 forfeit if above testimonial is not genuine.

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HAVE THE SAME POINTS OF EXCELLENCE AND GIVE COMPLETE SATISFACTION.

150 Kinds for 16c.

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For 16 Cents Postpaid

50 kinds of rarest seedling radishes,
25 magnificent earliest cabbages,
10 sorts glorious tomatoes,
25 perfect lettuce varieties,
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65 gorgeous beautiful flower seeds.

In all 150 kinds postage prepaid. Bunches of charming flowers and lots of choice vegetables, together with our great catalogue telling all about Tomatoes and Peas, Caut and from which Salzer's seeds are raised at 60c a pound, etc., all only for 16c. in stamps. Write today. JOHN A. SALZER SEED CO., La Crosse, Wis.

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Double Bush & Trailing SWEET PEAS

Double Sweet Peas, White, Pink, Scarlet, Trailing. These sorts for 16c. Trailing Sweet Peas—Trailing instead of growing upright. White, and other colors. Yellow Lavender and Scarlet. Double Sweet Peas—Grow in bush form without support. Striped, Lavender and Brown-red. The sorts for 16c. All 25c. one pack each for 25c. postpaid.

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For Farmers and Others. White wash will not rub off. Will send you recipe by enclosing 10c and address to P. O. Box 98, Sta. D, Cincinnati, Ohio.

NO FAKE SALARY OFFER

offer, but big commission to successful candidates to introduce Success Poultry Mixture. Write today. Sever mind stamp. SUCCESS MFG. CO., Box 24, East St. Louis, Ill.

SALZER'S Superior FODDER PLANTS

VICTORIA RAPE

About 10 miles land of Dwarf Essex Rape in business, in vigor and nourishing quality. It makes it possible to grow swine and sheep and cattle all over America at 1c. a lb. It is a marvelously prolific. Salzer's catalogue tells.

Giant Incarnate Clover

Produces a luxuriant crop three feet tall within six weeks after seeding and lots and lots of pasturage all summer long besides. Will do well anywhere. Price dirt cheap.

Grass, Clovers and Fodder Plants

Our catalogue is brimful of thoroughly tested farm seeds such as Thousand Headed Kale, Teacup, producing 10 tons of green fodder per acre; Pea Cat; Speltz, with 150 bushels of grain and 4 tons of hay per acre; Bullion Dollar Grass, etc., etc.

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The great grass of the century, growing wherever soil is found. Our great catalogue, worth \$10 to any wide awake American, gardener or farmer, is mailed to you with many farm seed samples, upon receipt of 10c to cents postage. Catalogue alone 5 cents for postage.

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